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United States Attorney

**FILED**  
JUN 16 2015  
RICHARD W. WIEKING  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SHAUN W. BRIDGES,  
a/k/a "Number13,"

Defendant.

CRIMINAL NO.

VIOLATIONS:

18 U.S.C. § 1957 – Money Laundering;  
18 U.S.C. § 1512 – Obstruction of Justice;  
18 U.S.C. §§ 982(a)(1); 981(a)(1)(C); and 28 U.S.C.  
§ 2461(c) – Forfeiture.

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Information, with all dates being approximate and all date ranges both approximate and inclusive:

1. Defendant SHAUN W. BRIDGES ("BRIDGES") was a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service ("USSS") assigned to the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force and to the Secret Service's Electronic Crimes Task Force.

2. Silk Road was a website where illegal goods were posted for sale, including narcotics. Silk Road was only accessible through The Onion Router, or "TOR" network, a network designed to

1 conceal the true IP addresses of computers on the network and the users' identities. The only accepted  
2 form of payment on Silk Road was Bitcoin.

3 3. Bitcoin was a form of virtual currency that existed online. The value of Bitcoin  
4 fluctuated widely during 2013 and 2014.

5 4. The Baltimore Silk Road Task Force was a task force formed jointly by several federal  
6 law enforcement agencies, including USSS, designed to investigate and apprehend vendors, buyers,  
7 administrators, and the manager of Silk Road, including the head of Silk Road, R.U., a/k/a "Dread Pirate  
8 Roberts," a/k/a "DPR" (hereafter "R.U."). A Grand Jury for the District of Maryland, based in  
9 Baltimore, Maryland, and in connection with the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force investigation,  
10 conducted investigation into the activities of R.U., vendors, buyers, and administrators, and it  
11 constituted an official proceeding.

12 5. BRIDGES was assigned to, among other responsibilities, forensic computer  
13 investigations in an effort to locate, identify, and prosecute targets of the Baltimore Silk Road Task  
14 Force, including R.U., and other vendors, buyers, and administrators on Silk Road.

15 6. Carl M. Force, IV, ("Force") was a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement  
16 Administration assigned to the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force. Force was assigned to act in an  
17 undercover capacity in an effort to locate, identify, and prosecute targets of the Baltimore Silk Road  
18 Task Force, including R.U., and other vendors, buyers, and administrators on Silk Road. Force  
19 controlled "Nob," an undercover persona on Silk Road that communicated with R.U. and posed as a  
20 large scale drug dealer with the ability to hire people to commit murder. A Grand Jury for the Northern  
21 District of California, based in San Francisco, California, conducted investigation into the activities of  
22 Force and, eventually, BRIDGES, and it, too, constituted an official proceeding.

23 7. In his role performing forensic computer analysis, BRIDGES investigated a customer  
24 support representative on Silk Road, "C.G.," in connection with C.G. assisting in the delivery of  
25 approximately one kilogram of cocaine to an undercover identity controlled by Force. On January 17,  
26 2013, BRIDGES participated in a search and arrest of C.G. for possession with intent to distribute  
27 cocaine.  
28

1           8.       On January 25, 2013, BRIDGES participated in an interview of C.G. During the  
2 interview, C.G. described his administrator access to Silk Road as a customer support representative and  
3 his ability to reset passwords and pins of account holders on Silk Road. C.G. shared his administrator  
4 access and password with the interviewing agents.

5           9.       On January 25, 2013, BRIDGES accessed Silk Road through a computer utilizing C.G.'s  
6 administrator access. BRIDGES reset passwords and pins of various accounts on Silk Road and moved  
7 bitcoin from those accounts into a "wallet" he controlled. In this manner, BRIDGES fraudulently  
8 moved and stole approximately 20,000 bitcoin from Silk Road and Silk Road accounts.

9           10.      On January 26, 2013, R.U. learned that C.G.'s access to Silk Road had been used to  
10 fraudulently transfer bitcoin from Silk Road into a wallet. R.U. canceled C.G.'s administrator access to  
11 Silk Road. On January 26, 2013, R.U. communicated with Force's undercover persona, "Nob," and  
12 sought to hire "Nob" to murder C.G. in retaliation for the bitcoin thefts.

13           11.      On January 26, 2013, BRIDGES moved the stolen bitcoin into an account at Mt. Gox, an  
14 online digital currency exchange based in Japan.

15           12.      On January 27, 2013, BRIDGES, acting as an undercover persona on Silk Road,  
16 "Number13," communicated with R.U. in an effort to falsely and fraudulently prevent R.U. from  
17 learning who had committed the theft from Silk Road. Using the "Number13" persona, BRIDGES  
18 communicated that he had been the victim of the theft, rather than its perpetrator, and that he wanted his  
19 bitcoin returned to him. At the time of these communications, R.U. was in the Northern District of  
20 California and BRIDGES was in Maryland.

21           13.      On February 12, 2013, BRIDGES formed "Quantum International Investments, LLC,"  
22 ("Quantum"), and registered Quantum with the Maryland Secretary of State.

23           14.      On February 22, 2013, BRIDGES opened a personal investment account at Fidelity under  
24 the Quantum name but controlled by BRIDGES.

25           15.      Between March 6, 2013, and May 7, 2013, BRIDGES liquidated the bitcoin in the Mt.  
26 Gox account, proceeds of the Silk Road fraud, into U.S. Currency and transferred the U.S. Currency into  
27 his Quantum Fidelity account. Subsequently, during June of 2014, BRIDGES transferred money from  
28 the Quantum Fidelity account into a joint bank account in the name of BRIDGES and another person.

COUNT ONE: (18 U.S.C. § 1957 – Money Laundering)

16. The allegations in paragraphs 1 through 15 of this Information are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully here.

17. Between March 6, 2013 and June 14, 2014, in the Northern District of California and elsewhere, the defendant,

SHAUN W. BRIDGES, a/k/a “Number13,”

knowingly engaged in the following monetary transactions in the United States, knowing that the transactions involved criminally derived property with a value of greater than \$10,000, and which property was in fact the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, namely wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343:

Date	Amount	Description of Financial Transaction
3/6/13	\$98,511.08	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
3/8/13	\$98,968.00	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
3/13/13	\$99,968.62	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
3/18/13	\$99,968.74	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
3/19/13	\$99,968.64	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
4/5/13	\$99,968.08	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
4/16/13	\$99,969.34	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
4/26/13	\$99,969.32	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
5/7/13	\$25,559.37	Wire transfer from Mt. Gox to Quantum Fidelity account
6/4/14	\$225,000.00	Wire transfer from Quantum Fidelity account to PNC Bank account

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1957(a).

COUNT TWO: (18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2) – Obstruction of Justice)

18. Paragraphs 1 through 15 of this Information are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully here.

1           19.     On or between January 25, 2013, and April 2, 2015, within the Northern District of  
2 California and elsewhere, the defendant,

3                               SHAUN W. BRIDGES, a/k/a "Number13,"

4 and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, knowingly, intentionally, and corruptly attempted to,  
5 and did, obstruct, influence, and impede the following official proceedings: (1) the Baltimore Grand  
6 Jury investigation in connection with the Baltimore Silk Road Task Force, and (2) the San Francisco  
7 Grand Jury investigation of BRIDGES and Force, by the following acts:

- 8           A. On January 25, 2013, BRIDGES used C.G.'s administrator access to Silk Road to steal  
9 bitcoin from Silk Road, thereby limiting the use of that access to further the Baltimore Grand  
10 Jury investigation of R.U. and Silk Road, creating incentive for R.U. to seek to murder C.G.,  
11 and causing investigation into the thefts of bitcoin from Silk Road;
- 12           B. Between April 29, 2014, and June 27, 2014, in connection with the San Francisco Grand Jury  
13 investigation, BRIDGES made and caused to be made inquiries with a database controlled by  
14 the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN") in an effort to determine whether  
15 Bank Secrecy Act filings existed related to his financial activities;
- 16           C. On May 28, 2014, BRIDGES made false and misleading statements to a Special Agent of the  
17 Federal Bureau of Investigation, in connection with the San Francisco Grand Jury  
18 investigation of Force, in an effort to prevent the investigation from focusing on BRIDGES;
- 19           D. On November 13, 2014, BRIDGES made false and misleading statements to a Special Agent  
20 of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General participating in the San Francisco  
21 Grand Jury investigation of Force in an effort to prevent the investigation from focusing on  
22 BRIDGES;
- 23           E. On February 1, 2015, BRIDGES solicited a witness to the FinCEN searches to make false  
24 statements to Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector  
25 General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with the San Francisco Grand  
26 Jury investigation of Force and BRIDGES; and
- 27           F. On March 30, 2015, BRIDGES made false statements to Special Agents of the Internal  
28 Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division and Federal Bureau of Investigation

1 regarding the FinCEN searches in connection with the San Francisco Grand Jury  
2 investigation of Force and BRIDGES.

3 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1512(c)(2) and 2.

4 FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS: (18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) – Money Laundering Forfeiture); ( 18.  
5 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Obstruction of Justice Forfeiture)

6 Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count One of the Information, the defendant,

7 SHAUN W. BRIDGES, a/k/a “Number13,”

8 shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1), any property, real or personal,  
9 involved in any such offense, or any property traceable to such property, including but not limited to the  
10 following: a money judgment equivalent to the amount of property involved in the violation of 18 U.S.C  
11 §§ 1957(a):

12 a. Any interest in, security of, claim against, or property or contractual rights of any kind in  
13 the goods or tangible items that were the subject of the violation;

14 b. Any interest in, security of, claim against, or property or contractual rights of any kind in  
15 tangible property that was used in the export or attempt to export that was the subject of the violation;  
16 and

17 c. Any property constituting, or derived from, any proceed obtained directly or indirectly as  
18 a result of the violation; and

19 d. Any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to  
20 the violation.

21 Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count Two of the Information, the defendant,

22 SHAUN W. BRIDGES, a/k/a “Number13,”

23 shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(c), and 28, U.S.C. § 2461(c), any  
24 property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense,  
25 including but not limited to the following: a money judgment equivalent to the amount of property  
26 involved in the violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1512(c)(2) and 2.

27 If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

28 (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

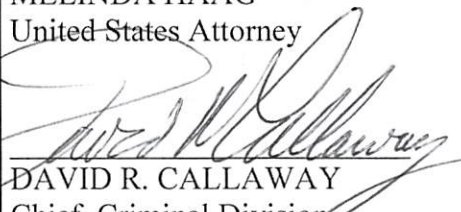
(c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;

(d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;


the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

MELINDA HAAG  
United States Attorney

  
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RAYMOND HULSER  
Acting Chief, Public Integrity Section

(Approved as to form:

  
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KATHRYN HAUN  
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RICHARD EVANS  
Trial Attorney, Public Integrity Section

**United States District Court  
Northern District of California**

**CRIMINAL COVER SHEET**

**Instructions:** Effective January 3, 2012, this Criminal Cover Sheet must be completed and submitted, along with the Defendant Information Form, for each new criminal case.

**Case Name:**

USA v. SHAUN W. BRIDGES

**Case Number:**

CR 15 0319 RS

**Total Number of Defendants:**

1 ☐

2-7 ☒

8 or more ☐

**Is This Case Under Seal?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**Does this case involve ONLY charges under 8 U.S.C. § 1325 and/or 1326?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**Venue (Per Crim. L.R. 18-1):**

SF ☒

OAK ☐

SJ ☐

EUR ☐

MON ☐

**Is any defendant charged with a death-penalty-eligible crime?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**Assigned AUSA (Lead Attorney):**

KATHRYN R. HAUN

**Is this a RICO Act gang case?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**Date Submitted:**

June 16, 2015

**Comments:**

An Information for co-Defendant Carl Force is expected to be filed shortly and related to this action; hence the number for total number of defendants above is listed as 2 instead of 1

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